

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
2. The amendment to the claims dated 11 September 2009 has been reconsidered and is sufficient to overcome the rejections from the previous office actions. The amendment was sufficient to place the case in condition for allowance. Claims 2-8 and 15-17 are currently pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-8 and 15-17 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: It is in the opinion of the examiner that the art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious "wherein the roundish fused alumina particles have.... a roundness of 0.85 or more" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in the independent claim 2.

The closest prior art is U.S. Patent No. 5,888,258 which discloses grinding a material down in a jet mill. However it does not disclose a specific roundness or that the particles are fused alumina. U.S. Patent No. 6,139,990 discloses using a jet mill to round particles (column 4, lines 4-5 and column 5, lines 10-11). However the particles are graphite not fused alumina.

Regarding claims 15-17, these claims are allowable as these claims positively recites their dependency on claim 2, which is allowable for the reasons stated above, and therefore these claims include all the steps of the allowed method of claim 2.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew G. Katcoff whose telephone number is (571) 270-1415. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached on (571) 272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3725

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3725

/M. G. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3725
04/14/2010